



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER  
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS**

## **Medicaid as it Relates to TRICARE**

This article provides Medicaid information relating to coordination of Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) benefits.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act provides the medically indigent and low income recipients health care benefits under the Medicaid program, managed at the State level. Each State administers its own Medicaid program, examples include "Medi-Cal" in California, "MassHealth" in Massachusetts, "TennCare" in Tennessee, and may work in cooperation with other State operated programs in providing health care services to qualifying recipients.

Eligible military family members who are enrolled within the DEERS may also qualify to be enrolled in a Medicaid or other managed health care programs, private insurance companies or health maintenance organizations administered by a State. NOTE: When a DEERS eligible beneficiary is in receipt of more than one benefit or enrolled in a State managed health care program, coordination of TRICARE benefits will occur. In the case of Medicaid, this means the TRICARE benefit prevails as the primary payer as it is a benefit and not an insurance program and Medicaid would be the secondary payer. Typically, Medicaid or other State operated health care programs will ask the family member to dis-enroll or have their eligibility removed from the TRICARE program in order to qualify or to continue to remain eligible for Medicaid or the State health care program.

Since the military medical benefit is a statutory entitlement program (established by U.S.C. 10, chapter 55, Section 1072), the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Uniformed Services cannot deny the TRICARE benefit or dis-enroll an otherwise eligible family member from DEERS. This means that a child who is a dependent of a military member will remain eligible up to age 21 and may not have their eligibility removed in order to qualify for Medicaid or other State operated health care insurance programs.

Exception: Effective 1 January 2011, TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) Program authorizes medical care only, up to age 26. For eligibility and enrollment details, visit your local TRICARE Service Center (TSC) or TRICARE regional contractors - North 1-877-874-2273, South 1-800-444-5445, West 1-888-874-9378, Eurasi-Africa +44-20-8762-8384, Latin America and Canada +1-215-942-8393, or Pacific +61-2-9273-2710.

For information concerning coordination of medical benefits between Medicaid and TRICARE for family members, please contact the Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC), located within each Military Treatment Facility (MTF). The BCAC has a thorough understanding of TRICARE and related programs to include Medicaid and other State operated health care insurance programs.

### **TOOLS**

[Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator \(BCAC\) Locator](#)  
[TRICARE Service Center](#)

### **AUTHORITATIVE/RELATED RESOURCES**

[AFI 36-3026V1\\_IP, Identification Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Eligible Family Members, and other Eligible Personnel](#)